

FILE No. *Q. 3011.*

C. & S. B. REGISTRY

SUBJECT:

V. A. Rybakoff alias Katicoff alias
Lebekieff, arms trafficker.

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL
File No. 3011

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT

Special Agent in Charge
Date: 3/19/32

Subject (in full) V.A. Rybeloff alias "Chief"

Made by D.S. Tolmushovskiy Forwarded by SBRM 01

Further enquiries have revealed that V.A. Rybeloff show that this individual left Shanghai for Chefoo about one month ago and is at present residing at 11, 13 Broadway, Chefoo. He is carrying on business as a broker and a salesman and in this venture is assisted by his wife V.A. Rybeloff nee Grant. This lady arrived in Shanghai from Chefoo about the week ago and is at present residing with her parents at 333 Rue Gardinier, Chefoo. V.A. Rybeloff is expected to arrive in Shanghai from Chefoo on or about March 19. No information has been received as to Rybeloff's connection with the sale of "Gas Pistols." but it is known that he is on friendly terms with Ellis Widler who is reported to be dealing in this class of weapon.

It is reported that E. Widler who left Shanghai for Tsingtau on August 9, by the s.s. "Water Lark," returned here on August 27 by the s.s. "Delaware." It is believed that he has stored in his residence, Flat 617, E. Boulevard Building, North Soochow Road, a considerable number of gas pistols which he obtained from an Italian steamer and that the pistols are delivered to purchasers by both his wife Mrs. Widler and her sister. Information from another source indicates that one S. H. Pan (潘三星), merchant, connected with the "Protector" Co., 25 Jintee Road is also an agent for the sale of gas pistols. He resides at 14 An Loh Fong off Bubbling Well Road. Rybeloff at one time was employed with this concern and it is believed that he (Pan) has some connection with Widler.

DC (Crime)

Information

The Robertson

Officer i/c Special Branch.

J. Choremshany
D. S.

CONFIDENTIAL
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.
DRAWER

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
REGISTRY
D. D. 3011
Section 2. Station,
11. 1. 34.
Date January 19, 1934

Subject (in full) V. I. Rybakoff, alias Rebinoff alias Robekieff.

Made by D. S. Tcheremessensky.

Forwarded by *SBK*

*
See D. 775.
With reference to the D.O. (Crime) memo of December 24, 1931, on the subject of V. I. Rybakoff and his connections with Elly Widler and Paul S. Crawley, enquiries show that Rybakoff is on friendly terms with both Widler and Crawley and is believed to have had dealings with Widler as far back as 1929, when he (Rybakoff) was then employed with the Protecor Co. No. 25 Jinkee Road, a firm dealing in Bullet Proof Devices and Bullet Proof Glass. Widler, it is known, was one of the first persons to introduce this class of goods into China. The acquaintance of Crawley and Rybakoff is believed to date back to 1922-23. At this time the first named was operating a gambling den in Harbin. Crawley was later arrested and fined \$2500 for this offence. During 1927 Crawley, who had arrived in Shanghai some time previous, renewed his connections with Rybakoff, who was then the manager of the now defunct "Palais de Danse", No. 55A Bubbling Well Road.

In June 1931 Rybakoff left Shanghai for North China and Manchuria. It is rumoured that this trip was taken in connection with the object of demonstrating to certain Northern Generals the value and efficiency of certain "liquid fire" apparatus in which they were interested. It was intended, that Rybakoff should act as advance agent and when he had aroused sufficient interest among prospective purchasers, the other two individuals would then proceed North and if successful in their negotiations would demand a substantial cash deposit in advance prior to the delivery of any goods ordered. With the reputation that Crawley and Widler have established for themselves in China, and the absence of any stock, it is easy to believe that the prospective purchasers would undoubtedly have been swindled out.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

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Station, _____
Date _____ 19

Subject (in full) _____

Made by _____

Forwarded by _____

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of their money. The arrest of Crawley by the American authorities on January 8, 1933 on a charge of importing opium into the U.S.A. has undoubtedly caused a serious set-back to any schemes which these three may have had in mind, and as a result both Rybakoff and Widler are now adopting a very careful and cautious attitude.

Various meetings between these three are said to have taken place at Widler's place of residence, Flat No. 7, 136 Seymour Road, where he professes to be the operator of a private inquiry agency. At this address it also is believed that he conducts gambling on a small scale.

Another meeting place of these individuals, prior to Crawley's arrest, was the "Velvet" Sweet Shop, Central Arcade, 101 Szechuen Road, in which concern Crawley until recently openly had a financial interest. This shop is at present under the joint ownership of two Chinese named Lee Woo Ling (李和林) and Tsha Loong Kyi (李荣九). The latter named, who recently left Shanghai for Ningbo, is said to be suspected by the American Authorities as being an accomplice of Crawley's in the smuggling of opium into the U.S.A. Both these individuals reside at 1782 Zung Hou Li (成亨里) off Tongshan Road near Alcock Road. Regarding this shop it is interesting to note that after operating for about 4 years, only applied for a licence on September 9, 1931. The application for the licence, which was made by Crawley, has not yet been granted.

Rybakoff is at present engaged on a commission basis in the selling of a brand of cigarettes known as "Indian Head", manufactured by the Pine Aromatic Cigarette Co. Inc. Philipina, 661/663 Magdalena St Trozo P.I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

J. Tcheremshansky
D.B. (Crime) P. S.
Information. J. H. Evans, i/c S.B.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai.

24. 12

1931

To

I am told that
he is mixed up with
Widder & J.T. Crawley
& that something "fishy"
is afoot just
now in the Armes
line. If Tchere-mahantky
could get me confidential
information I should
be glad.

L. C. Davis

S2, For attention
please.

H. (cc)

24. 12. 31.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
& S. D. REGISTRY
S. B. D. 3011
Section 2, Station,
No. 22-12-31
Date December 23, 1931.

Subject (in full) Vladimir Alexandrovich Rybakoff alias Rebicoff alias Rebekieff.

Made by D.S. Tchermshansky.

Forwarded by *[Signature]*

Inquiries made concerning the above mentioned individual show that he was born in 1899 in Petrograd (Leningrad) Russia. He is ex-captain of the aviation corps of the former Russian Imperial Army. In 1920 he arrived in Harbin and resided there until 1925. While in Harbin he was employed for about two years (1921-1923) as manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway club. For some time he held a similar post with the "Hotel Modern". During the period of his residence in Harbin he visited Chan-Chun, Mukden and Dairen but the nature of his business in those cities is unknown.

In 1925 Rybakoff arrived in Shanghai from Harbin and was employed as manager of the now defunct "Palais de Danse", No. 53A Bubbling Well Road and later at the "Charlston" cabaret Rue Chu Pao San. In October 1925 he left Shanghai for Calcutta, India, where it is reported that he was employed in the "Grand Hotel" in that city. In June 1926 he returned to Shanghai from Calcutta and set himself up as a commission agent.

In 1930 Rybakoff joined the staff of "Protector Co", Inc. (Importers and Exporters; Special Bullet Proof Steel Devices and Bullet Proof Glass), No. 25 Jinkee Road, and was employed by this firm for about one year. This concern no longer exists. Other employees of this firm included Wsevolod A. Kirkor, alias William Kirk, a suspected smuggler (File A. 5415) and H. Bisbjerg, suspected Arms dealer, who was deported to Denmark on September 2, 1930 (Files: I.O. 8283, I.O. 9630, & I.O. 5962). On May 23, 1931, Rybakoff was charged under the name of V.A. Rebekieff in the Shanghai Special District Court with Trafficking in Arms and was fined \$500.00.

On June 6, 1931 he left Shanghai for Dairen and North

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Forwarded by _____

China and returned to Shanghai on November 20, 1931 by s.s. "Hoten Maru" accompanied by his wife. During his absence from Shanghai he visited Seoul, Korea, for the purpose of calling upon the parents of his wife, Hellena Alexandrovna Rybakoff nee Grant. His father-in-law, a Russian of English extraction named A. Grant, is an ex-captain of gendarmierie, of the Russian Imperial Army and was attached to the "White" Intelligence service during the Civil War. He is at present the manager of an English Language School in Seoul. Rybakoff also visited several towns in Manchuria. In Mukden he went into partnership in a hotel owned by one H. Hreptovich, white Russian, formerly in the service of later Baron Ungern, former dictator of Outer Mongolia. But it is reported that the money which he invested was spent by Hreptovich.

Rybakoff at present living with one Y.F. Lavroff at 421 Route Cardinal Mercier, and is said to be engaged in selling cigars, cigarettes etc. on a commission basis.

G. Tchermshansky
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

This report was compiled at the request of the D.C. (Crime).

SBK 23/12.

A.B. (Crime)

Information.

J.H. Swens

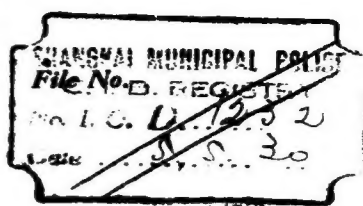
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23/12/31.

POLITICAL BRANCH
(FOREIGN SECTION)
DATE 5 3 36

**CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER**

(C.I.D.) Office Notes



CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

With reference to the attached and in accordance with your verbal instructions, I introduced E. Charkez to Chief Insp. Litworne of the French Police in December 1935 and since then negotiations have been proceeding between him and the latter authorities.

From information received from Chief Insp. Litworne on February 5, there does not appear to be much prospect of any successful results being obtained as it now transpires Charkez is unable to supply further information.

I therefore suggest this report be filed. Any further developments will be forwarded.

A. Robertson
D. I.

M/D. C. I.

File Recd
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POLITICAL BRANCH
(FOREIGN SECTION)
DATE 6-12-29

File No.

(C.I.D.) Office Notes

Confidential

Sir,

At 11:45 a.m. December 6, 1929 a Russian, named P. Cherkez, residing at 8 Yang Terrace, volunteered the following information which he desires to be treated confidentially and outside the knowledge of Russian detectives:

Mr. Rebicoff, 26 Carter Road, has the following arms and ammunition for sale:

- 300, 12" Mausers, without holsters, and 100 rounds of ammunition for each firearm. Price \$128.00 each.
- 100, 12" Mausers, with holsters, and 100 rounds of ammunition for each firearm. Price \$142.00 each.
- 48, Spanish Browning pistols with 100 rounds of ammunition for each firearm. Price \$60.00 each.
- 200, German rifles, with bayonets and bandoliers and 1000 rounds of ammunition for each firearm. Price \$115.00 each.

The informer in this case as in most other cases expects a reward and does not know where the contraband is hidden. In order to discover this he proposes that he should go to Rebicoff and purchase two samples of Mausers (with and without holsters), with money provided by the C.I.D. Rebicoff will then leave his house to get the samples, and will be followed by a Chinese detective in order to find out the destination of the cargo. The informer, however, thinks that the Mausers and the Spanish Brownings are somewhere in the French Concession while the German rifles are supposed to be in the Settlement in the custody of certain Germans.

In this connection I respectfully submit that no object would be served by purchasing a sample if the cargo

is in the French Concession as the French Police would claim it in the event of a successful raid.

The informer has promised to communicate with me again on the subject.

A. Robertson
D. I.

A. Robertson.

A/D. C. I.

Let me know what re
says I cannot approve of
arms being brought into
the Settlement for the purpose
of obtaining a criminal
charge but we could
cooperate with French
Police if information is
good. There is a case under
Criminal Code if arms are
kept without a permit
(Chinese law) without going to
the trouble of purchase. Say
6/12

CONFIDENTIAL

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